

Serial No. 10/602,583

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, claims 20-21 have been canceled, claims 1-2 and 18-19 have been amended and new claims 22-29 have been added. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-7, 18-19 and 22-29 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

In teleconferences held on July 16, 2004 and July 20, 2004, Examiner Brewster indicated that dependent claims 2 and 20, to the extent they were limited to xenon, argon and germanium, or combinations thereof, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Pursuant to the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite that the germanium ions are implanted as described therein. In new independent claims 22 and 24, xenon is identified as the implanted ions. In new independent claims 26 and 28, argon is identified as the implanted ions.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, this response is being sent to him via facsimile (571-273-1854). The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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